

The **Historian**

of Hancock County

Bay Saint Louis, Mississippi

July 1995

July Meeting

The July meeting of the Hancock County Historical Society will be held at 12 noon on July 20th at the Eastern Star Hall at 601 Bouslog Street, across from the side of the Hwy. 90 Post Office. The cost of lunch will be \$5.00; tax and tip are included.

Speakers for the day will be the candidates for the office of Chancery Clerk: Timothy J. Favre; L. Kay Johnson; Timothy A. "Tim" Kellar; J.T. Ladner; Jimmie Ladner, Jr.; Robert Frank Ladner; Randy Perniciaro and Michael R. Schaefer.

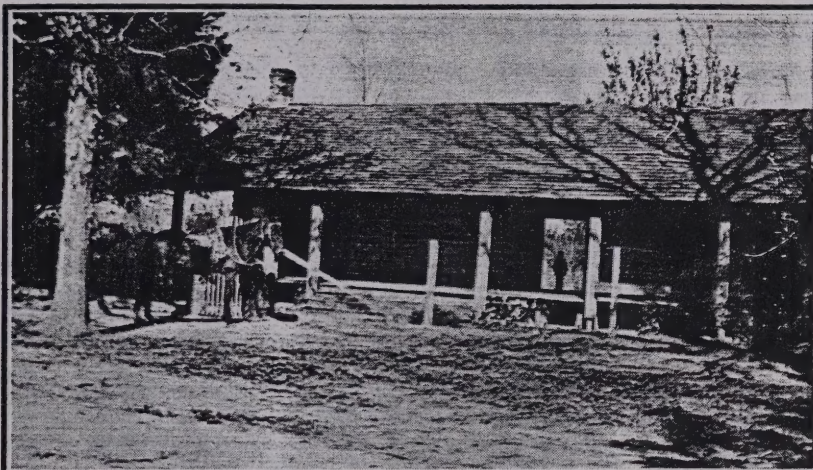
Please telephone 467-4090 for reservations, at least two days in advance so that we can notify the ladies for their preparations.

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

As stated before, our By Laws forbid our backing any political candidate or party for any election. Therefore we have invited ALL candidates for the office of Chancery Clerk to tell us in five minutes or less why we (The Historical Society members) should vote for them.

The chancery clerk's office in the past has been very helpful to us in acquiring the last hundred

(Continued on page 3)



EARLY MISSISSIPPI SETTLER'S "DOG-TROT" CABIN

WHICH LAND GRABBERS?

Lest it be thought that the land-hungry settlers in the Mississippi Territory confined themselves to amiable and sweetly persistent positions in their efforts to acquire the good earth, a few hints as to less legal methods must be added. The mere squatting upon public lands was of course itself illegal, and some of the squatters were never removed, in spite of laws, proclamations, and the dispatch of the Army to eject some of them. The method was to forcibly remove them from the land and burn their cabins and fences. Intrusion was quite general, and wholly supported by public opinion, and by the local government Monroe County

was erected out of the Creek cession, officers appointed there, and taxes collected, before the land was opened for sale. The letter of one of these squatters to the President is so amusing, and sums up so sincerely and naively the reasoning of the squatters that it deserves quotation.

Munrow County, January 20, 1816 Dear Sir in viewing our last Papers we find it very Distressing news for us to be obliged to move of of the Public Lands, - which will Distress Not Less than 500 families - in order for your Honour to be in possession of our Distress Situation I thought Proper to inform you we are at least 300 Miles from any State the news reached us two
(Continued on page 2)

(GRABBERS from page 1)
 late to Purchase lands on the
 tombigbee - and all that is werth
 living on has been Sold - had we
 Knowledg of this we would have
 land two - but general Jackson
 encouraged us to Settle on the
 allebarmer - there is also a
 Number of People from North &
 South Carolina & georgia and a
 grate Number of them has sold
 their Carages waggons & & -
 and Now how to get back god
 only knows - there is also a
 Number of Poore widows that
 has lost there Husbands in the
 late war with the British & In-
 dians and is not able to Move of
 -there assembled also about 70
 Indians on the allebarmer Near
 the Standing Peach tree and
 states that the treaty between the
 Americans & British gave them
 there lands, and they Mean to
 work it - if we leave our Planta-
 tions the Indians will be shore
 to burn them the People in this
 Cuntry are New Settlers and
 Mostly Poore People that has
 been already Ruined by the In-
 dians - and Now to leave there
 Crops of wheat gardens & tur-
 nips will Compleetly Distress
 them over again a grate Number
 of Citizens Scearsely Made
 tread last year owing to the
 Invation with the British & In-
 dians - I am of the opinion that
 there Has been some Rong Mis-
 representations made to your
 Honour in Regard to the Public
 Lands - there has been a Stop to
 Cutting Down timber for Sever-
 al Months which was obeyed all
 the lands that was Improved
 Sold Considerably better then
 that was Not it went to 6..8 & 10
 Dollers Pr achre that was good

and that was Not Improved went
 gennerally at government Price I
 will also state to your Honour
 that if there is not Preemptions
 allowd to the Citizens of this
 Cuntry that the Yazzoo Compa-
 ny will Purchase all the good
 land from the Head to the
 Mouth of the allebarmer it will
 take all the good Land to pay
 five Million of Dollers - if your
 Honour should think Proper to
 Let us Stay till we make a Crop it
 would be a Blessing to some -
 Particular to those widows &
 Children that there Husbands
 has been Masicreed by the Sav-
 ages - it is Impossible for us at
 this Hour to go and buy Land
 and build Houses and open land
 time Enough to make a Support -
 it is one of the Most Distressing
 News that we Ever heard of it is
 worse than the Indian & British
 war. the feelings of our citizens
 is very much Hurt Particular
 those who fought Brave to obtain
 this Cuntry and Now Cannot In-
 joy it if the thing Could be Right-
 ly Constrewd to our goverment I
 Cannot but think that what the
 orders would be Counter-
 manded though I am always
 willing to Concur on my Part
 with any law that Goverment will
 adopt - if your Honour would be
 so good as to favour me with an
 answer when Convenient and
 Direct your Letters to Fishers
 Post Office on the allebarmer
 near fort Claibourne Sir I am
 with Respect your obedient and
 Humble servant --

CLABON HARRIS

The land officers both east and
 west reported that the illegal oc-
 cupants, some of whom had

already been in possession for 15
 years, intended to remain upon
 the land until they had completed
 its depletion, and had no in-
 tention of paying anything to the
 government. In some cases they
 let it for revenue. At the sales, the
 intruders conspired to prevent
 bidding, and threatened with the
 force of public opinion or even
 with assassination those who bid
 for the lands they held. Most of
 the rascality complained of oc-
 curred in the eastern part of the
 territory. It was found necessary
 to hold the sales at a distance
 (Milledgeville) to secure anything
 like fairness. Violence was not
 beneath those contesting for the
 land. An example of prominence
 is the attack made upon Nicholas
 Gray, register in the west, by ex-
 governor Robert Williams.

Williams was heavily inter-
 ested in lands for himself and
 clients, and accused Gray of
 shady dealings, especially of sell-
 ing lands at private sale to his fa-
 vorites. The governor finally, in
 1816, accompanied by his partner
 and his brother-in-law (Samuel
 L. Winston), attacked Gray with
 a knife. It turned out not to be
 such a desperate affray, since
 Williams neglected to remove his
 knife from its sheath. Trickery,
 fraud, violence, litigation, gath-
 ered themselves around the dis-
 position of the lands. (From
 AMERICAN BEGINNINGS IN
 THE OLD SOUTHWEST: THE
 MISSISSIPPI, W.B. HAMILTON,
 1937.)

THE GAINESVILLE STAR,
 1866, was the first newspaper
 published in Hancock County.

CIVIL WAR DAYS - HANCOCK COUNTY AND VICINITY
COMPILED AND EDITED BY CLYDE CUCULLU
MEMBER - HANCOCK COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Father Henry Le Duc, born Nantes, France, January 1, 1834, was ordained a priest there January 20, 1859.

Sent to Bay St. Louis immediately he spent 38 years. During his administration the Sorbonne or Free school for Boys was opened under the direction of the Brothers of the Sacred Heart.

In the spring of 1864 (October 5, 1863) a company of Federal soldiers from Fort Pike at Chef Menteur (Proctorville on lower Lake Borgne) landed at the Bay and were met by a Company of Sibley's Cavalry. The Confederates repulsed the Yankees and took some prisoners (wounding four and taking three others prisoners).

A few weeks later (October 20, 1863) 200 Federals from the gunboat Commodore came to rescue the captives. Captain Marshall of the (Confederate) Cavalry was in the Bay on a reconnoitering expedition. He was shot by a Federal soldier. Father Le Duc and his housekeeper, Miss Suzanne, rushed out and prevented the Federal soldier from finishing Captain Marshall with his bayonet.

The Yankees then determined to burn the town. They had burned the Lockett Hall properties in the neighborhood of the Pollock residence and the town seemed doomed. The people were terrified.

At this particular moment Father Le Duc, then a young priest, appeared in the street in the neighborhood of the Church holding aloft the Cross of Christ. Instantly every Federal soldier ceased firing and in respect to the cross of the Savior, doffed his hat. Thanks to the courage and religious influence of Father Le Duc, peace was restored and Bay St. Louis (then Shieldsboro) was saved from destruction.

Source: "Works Progress Administration" - 1936

(PRESIDENT from page 1)
 years of Sea Coast Echo newspapers. These issues have become the chief source of information in our computers and their great value is there-by established. Please know that we are in no way recommending any candidate, nor will we be, but you may ask questions of them afterwards and can hopefully make a more informed choice.

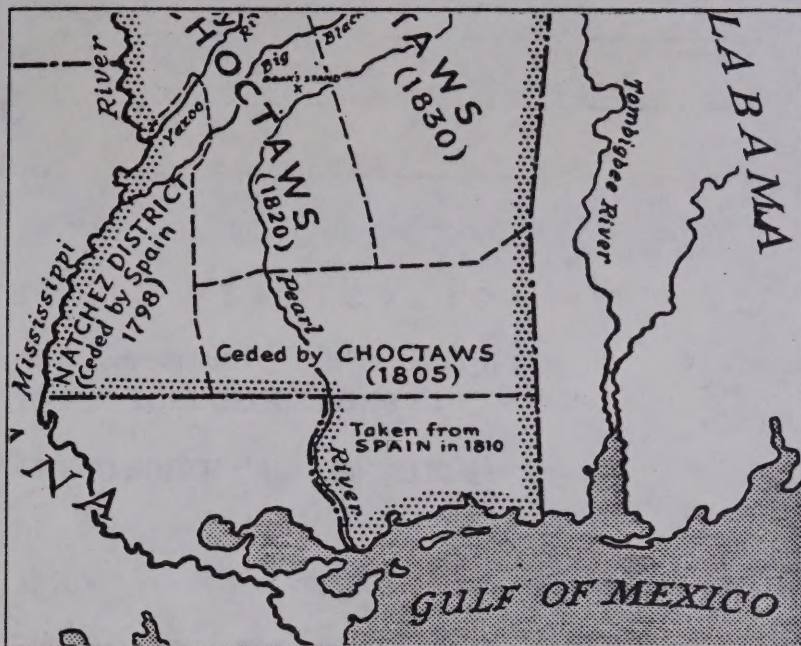
In the eleven years that I have lived in Hancock County, everything that I have asked of the people of the county has been instantly and cheerfully given: I wanted an office; we were given a house. I wanted better wiring in the house; it was completely rewired. I asked for additional work space; the President's Room was quickly built. I asked for a computer; we were given eight. Copy machine, printer, scanner, and even kitchen sink - the list goes on and on. Every week there is more.

Money has been coming in for more pages of the Sanborne maps. Mr. and Mrs. Richard Fitch, JoAnne Mumme, Mr. and Mrs. Lynn Cucullu have all made contributions toward the 1904 editions of the maps.

Basil Kennedy has donated several computers and boxes of software from his old office, now that he is President of Sunburst Bank.

Anyone who will be able to help at the McDonald-Church-Pogue house which we will be showing during the month of August, please call the Lobrano house and choose your day (days) and assignments.

Charles H. Gray, President



1832 THE LANDS OF SOUTHERN MISSISSIPPI

MISSISSIPPI TAXES 1865

Governor Sharkey on July 17, 1865, issued an order taxing the people of Mississippi for funds to meet the expenditures incident to the assembling of the State Convention next month. The following are the main provisions of the order: 1. On every dry goods, grocery and provision store, and on every commission or auction house or establishment, the sum of \$50. 2. On every drinking saloon, bar-room, or place where intoxicating or malt or brewed liquors are retailed, whether licensed or not, \$50. 3. On every public inn or tavern, exclusive of the take on the bar-room, \$25. 4. On every billiard table, bagatelle table, or other game not prohibited by law, \$25. 5. On every restaurant or public eating house, \$25. 6. On every transient trader or dealer in merchandise or prod-

uce, who is not permanently located in the State, \$25. 7. On every exchange broker or banker, or banking establishment, \$25. 8. On every bale of cotton taken or sent to market, \$1. (From N.O. Times, July 21, 1865.)

LOBRANO HOUSE HOURS

MON. 8 to 4 or by
 TUE. 8 to 4 appointment
 THU. 8 to 4

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